"There is no one-size-fits-all strategy for education improvement," said Easley. "This plan gives schools the guidance, flexibility and resources they require to ensure the success of all their students."

The funding secured by Easley was part of an unreserved cash balance from the 2003-04 fiscal year.

"Our belt-tightening over the past three years has provided us with some additional resources," said Easley. "I am directing these dollars to the classrooms where they are needed most."

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Note to media: The Governor will be available after today's 11 a.m. bill signing to make a brief statement and take questions regarding this action.